

News Release

UM Crookston Horticulture Students Place First at Mid-American Horticultural Society (MACHS) Competition held at University of Wisconsin River Falls on October 3-5, 2013

By Itolfele on Friday, October 11, 2013Four seniors from the University of Minnesota Crookston took home top honors over the

weekend at the Mid-American Horticultural Society (MACHS) competition at the University of Wisconsin River Falls. The horticulture majors making up the first place team included Catlin Kersting, Cloquet, Minn.; Ashlynn Hartung, Lindstrom, Minn.; Mitchell Sledge, Saint Louis Park, Minn.; and Tim Staudahar, Hibbing, Minn. The UM Crookston team finished in first place overall followed by Iowa State University in second and Colorado State University in third. The coach for the U of M Crookston is Theresa Helgeson.

The teams competed in four categories with a total of 200 points each for a total of 800 points overall. The categories were General Knowledge; Judging in both fruit and vegetable classes and nursery and floriculture classes; Herbaceous Identification and Woody Identification.

In the contest for herbaceous identification Staudahar tied for first place and Hartung tied for second. In Woody Identification Hartung took first and Staudahar took second and the two finished in first and second place respectively in Overall Individual.

Juniors Ashley Radke, Grand Forks, N.D.; and Sarah Lanners, Nashwauk, Minn.; and Senior Amanda Thompson, Pine River, Minn., also competed as individuals. Lanners finished third in the Herbaceous Identification contest.

The competition, which takes place during the MACHS annual conference, provides a means of communication between horticulture clubs of participating schools. This year marked the 41st annual conference of the organization. Sharing knowledge and ideas is an important part of the gathering. The MACHS competition includes collegiate horticulture clubs from 12 Mid-American states.

Keynote speaker at the conference was Mike Yanny, senior horticulturalist from Menomonee Falls, Wis. The conference offered students the opportunity to participate in educational tours of the Gertens Garden Center in Inver Grove Heights, Minn.; Bailey's Nursery in Newport, Minn.; St. Croix Valley Tree Farm in Sommerset, Wis.; A Future Farm and The Orchard in Baldwin, Wis.; and Wouterina de Raad's Garden Tour in Beldenville, Wis.

For more information on horticulture at the U of M Crookston, visit www.umcrookston.edu/hort.

Today the University of Minnesota Crookston delivers 28 bachelor's degree programs, 20 minors, and 39 concentrations on campus--as well as 11 degrees online--in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from 25 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

In the photo, at top, left to right in the back row, are Sarah Lanners, Mitch Sledge, Tim Staudahar, Catlin Kersting, Ashley Radke, Ashlynn Hartung. In the front: Coach Theresa Helgeson and Amanda Thompson



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